



# National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey, Inc. (NGMMNJ)



## August 2019

### NGMMNJ, INC ANNUAL MEETING & OTHER NEWS

The Annual Member meeting and trustee elections are scheduled for Sea Girt on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at 10:00am. Four trustee seats, currently held by Charlie Ragucci, Bob Watson, Rich LaRocca and, Joe Russo are up for election. All but LaRocca are running again. We are looking for members who are willing to serve on the Board of Trustees to nominate themselves for this vacant position. The only requirements are that they have served in the National Guard and are current NGMMNJ, Inc members. To vote in the election, members must attend the Annual Meeting and be current in their dues as of August 31st.

The NGMMNJ has a new Curator. Sergeant Andrew Walker has recently been hired for the position and started to work in July. He is from Basking Ridge and has come back home to New Jersey after being on active duty at Fort Bragg, NC for the past five years with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. Prior to his active service, SGT Walker was a Jersey Guardsman as a F-16 crew chief for the 177<sup>th</sup> FW out of Atlantic City for five years. SGT Walker has a BA in History from Rutgers University and a MA in Teaching from Montclair State University. He is married and has two daughters, Meaghan, Julia, and Victoria, respectively.

CW5 Guy Remig, our Curator for the past several months, will remain with the NGMMNJ as its Director. Chief Remig will be primarily focused on property accountability since the museum is charged with responsibility for all the military equipment in front of Armories, Legion Halls, etc. CW5 Remig will continue to provide direction to our curators at the two museums.

Tom Smith launched the new web site for the NGMMNJ, Inc on July 18th. The site contains a description of the organization, trustees' names and contact information, as well as information on joining, donating, and meetings. It provides a peek into our two museums, their hours of operation and location and contact information. Finally, it has a current membership application that may be downloaded and a link to contact us. The URL for the site is [www.ngmmnj-inc.org](http://www.ngmmnj-inc.org). Please check it out.

### WHAT'S INSIDE

|   |      |
|---|------|
| Board Listings, Contact Information, and Meeting Dates----- | pg 2 |
| Membership Report -----                                     | pg 3 |
| What's Up in Lawrenceville -----                            | pg 3 |
| Sea Girt Museum Artifact -----                              | pg 4 |
| Lawrenceville Museum Artifact -----                         | pg 5 |
| What' Up in Sea Girt -----                                  | pg 6 |

## NGMMNJ, INC BOARD of TRUSTEES

|                  |                |              |                         |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Charles Ragucci  | President      | 609 298-9399 | Colrags@comcast.net     |
| Robert Watson    | Vice President | 609 203-3637 | Bobkatw@optonline.net   |
| Duncan MacQueen  | VP Army        | 732 991-3230 | Mastergunner87@aol.com  |
| Edward Sain      | VP Air         | 609 209-5817 | Edsain@comcast.net      |
| David Turner     | Secretary      |              |                         |
| John Promaulayko | Treasurer      | 908 930-0499 | Promaulayko@verizon.net |
| Gary Ireland     | Member         | 609 468-6502 | Gireland36@gmail.com    |
| Richard LaRocca  | Member         | 609 585-2163 | Larocca131@aol.com      |
| Joseph Russo     | Member         | 609 610-1210 | Jrusso274@gmail.com     |
| Thomas Smith     | Member         | 609 937-1785 | Tjmsmith@aol.com        |
| William Kale     | Member         | 609 218-1147 | Wkale44@gmail.com       |
| George Beukema   | Member         | 609 298-7519 | Georgeb_44@yahoo.com    |
| James Kownacki   | Member         | 609 421-0875 | Irishpol@comcast.net    |
| Stephen Patrick  | Legal Counsel  | 856 697-2126 | Sepesq@aol.com          |

## NGMMNJ, INC. COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

BY-LAWS - Bob Watson; MEMBERSHIP - Bob Watson; DEVELOPMENT - Charlie Ragucci;  
BUDGET & FINANCE - Tom Smith

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Bill Kale 609 218-1147; wkale44@gmail.com

NGMMNJ, Inc Web Site: [www.ngmmnj-inc.org](http://www.ngmmnj-inc.org)

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**2019 BOARD and MEMBER MEETINGS:** Annual Member Meeting on October 20 @ 10:00 am in Sea Girt followed by a Board of Trustees meeting. Additional meetings by telephone conference will be scheduled by the President as needed. The first 2020 meeting will be in February.

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**MUSEUM CONTACT INFORMATION:** The NGMMNJ Director is CW5 Guy Remig (732 773-4509, Guy.c.remig.mil@mail.mil). The NGMMNJ Curator is SGT Andrew Walker (732 974-6409; andrew.l.walker2.mil@mail.mil). Both are located at Sea Girt. Also at Sea Girt are Assistant Curators Joseph Bilby (732 539-1666, JGBilby44@aol.com) and Carol Fowler (732 974-5966, Carol.Fowler@dmava.nj.gov)

COL (USA-Ret) Jon Gribbin (609 731-4519, j.ra.gribbin@verizon.net), LTC (USA-Ret) Bill Kale. (609 218-1147, Wkale44@gmail.com), and LTC (USA-Ret) Tom Smith (609 937-1785, tjmsmith@aol.com) serve as Co-curators at Lawrenceville.

## NGMMNJ, Inc. MEMBERSHIP

The NGMMNJ, Inc. has 169 members as of August 7, 2019 These include 79 Life Members, 89 Active Members and 1 Ex-Officio Members. The current cost for membership is \$15 for one year, \$25 for two years, \$35 for three years, and only \$125 for life membership.

The current membership application can be found on-line on the NGMMNJ, Inc web site shown on page 2. Download copies, pass them out to friends and co-workers, and encourage them to join so we can grow our numbers.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT LAWRENCEVILLE

The volunteers at Lawrenceville are dividing their time between keeping the current museum open, and up to snuff, attracting new visitors, and planning and preparing to occupy our new building which is under construction. We are developing a floor plan, identifying new artifacts to be displayed and building new cases in which to display them.

Construction of the new building started in May and is progressing steadily. The roof and sides are on and insulation is being installed. See the picture below left.

We have decided to continue with the "rustic look," i.e., homemade, in the new museum and the Cannon Shop under the leadership of Phil Gentile is building newly designed panels and cases and restoring old ones.

We are continuing to receive donations of artifacts from individuals. We have recently acquired a Model 1859 McClellan Saddle (picture below right) and fully outfitted Civil War cavalryman that will go on display in the new building, several models of Civil War cannons, and some firearms.

Finally, we look forward to having the services of Noelle Chant, a senior at The College of New Jersey, as an intern this fall. She will be working on our communications programs to improve our advertising efforts.



## SEA GIRT MUSEUM ARTIFACT: M-1857 NAPOLEON

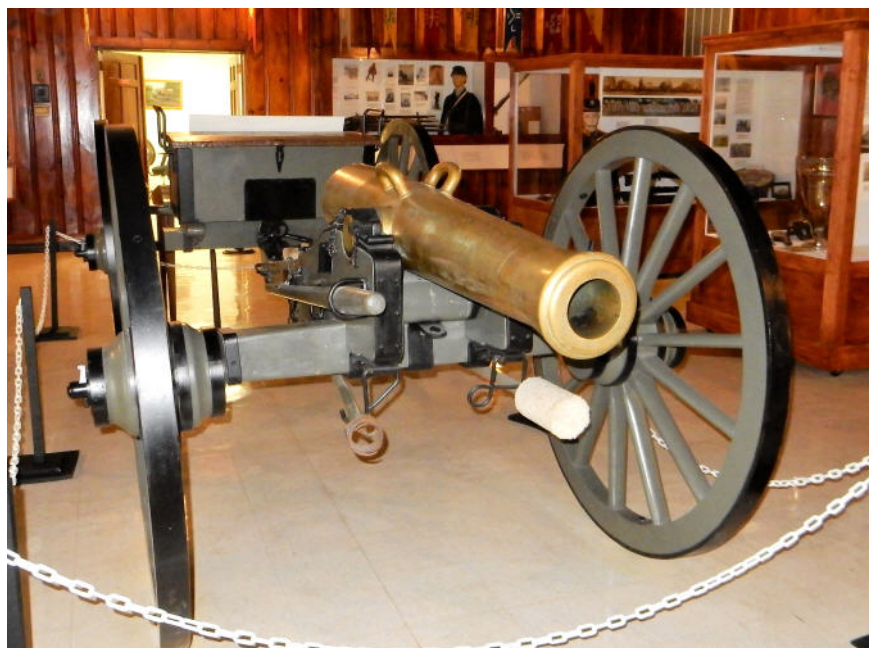
By Joseph G. Bilby

The Museum in Sea Girt features a 19<sup>th</sup> century artillery piece on display in its main gallery. The gun is a “12 pounder Napoleon,” originally designed under the direction of French Emperor Napoleon III in 1853. It is a muzzle loading smoothbore piece that fires a 12-pound solid iron round cannon ball as well as other types of ammunition, including shell, spherical case and the deadly canister round, in front of a 2.5-pound powder charge. The bore diameter of the 66-inch bronze tube, which weighs 1,227 pounds, is 4.62 inches. Firing the single projectile, the gun has a range of 1,619 yards at a 5-degree elevation.

Although formally adopted by the United States military in 1857, few Napoleons were produced in this country until the start of the Civil War in 1861. The barrel on the museum display piece was made by the Ames Manufacturing Company, Chicopee, Massachusetts. Ames only made 23 guns like this one with barrel handles, which were discontinued in December 1861. The barrel of the museum gun was inspected by Captain George Thatcher Balch of the Ordnance Corps on November 25, 1861. No records are available that describe the use of the cannon during the war. It, together with its twin, was mounted outside the East Orange Armory until that facility was sold by the state and both barrels were transferred to the Sea Girt museum where they were stored.

With the approach of the Civil War Sesquicentennial in 2011, museum staff decided to carefully clean one of the barrels and mount it on a historically correct carriage in tribute to New Jersey’s five artillery batteries which were all equipped with Napoleons in that conflict. Assistant Curator Joseph Bilby, who has Civil War artillery expert contacts in the North-South Skirmish Association, acquired a copy of original plans and tasked our expert volunteers with creating an accurate reproduction. They succeeded admirably and their work has passed muster with visiting artillery collectors and buffs.

M-1857 Smoothbore, 12 Pounder Napoleon on the floor at Sea Girt. Produced in December, 1861 by Ames Manufacturing Company, the carriage was built by Sea Girt volunteers





## LAWRENCEVILLE ARTIFACT: GERMAN WWII SOLDIER

Corporal “Fritz” Maugher is a mannequin depicting a Panzer Grenadier (Mechanized Infantryman) in the German Wehrmacht (Army) of 1943-1944. Fritz is named after a museum volunteer who died several years ago. Everything on display is authentic. Fritz is a Gefreiter (corporal) as shown by the chevrons worn on his left sleeve. His uniform is of low quality due to economic shortages in Germany since 1942 that reduced the wool content of most uniforms to less than 30%. Scrap material, including wood pulp, was blended into the uniform fabric. This material provided poor insulation, was slow to dry when wet, and tore easily. The reed green trim on his epaulets designate Fritz as a Panzer Grenadier as does the color of the “Litzen” on his collar insignia. He wears the standard army emblem with the Federal Eagle and swastika above his right breast pocket.

The Wehrmacht, unlike most armies, had its soldiers wear awards on their field uniforms. Our battle-tested Fritz is wearing four awards on or above his left breast pocket: the Iron Cross of the First Class – awarded for distinguishing himself in combat four or more times; the General Assault Badge (which shows a bayonet and hand grenade crossed below the German Federal Eagle) – awarded for participating in combat; a Pattern 1939, black Wound Badge – awarded for up to two wounds; and a Close Combat Bar – established by Adolph Hitler to be the highest honor bestowed on a combat infantryman.

Fritz is carrying a 9mm MP-40 submachine gun and has three extra magazines in the ammunition pouches on his belt. He carries a bayonet for the K-98 Rifle in a scabbard on his left leg, which was standard for most enlisted infantrymen regardless of the weapon they carried. Fritz is wearing leather combat “Y-straps” to support the weight of his belt. Note the belt buckle, made of aluminum or sheet steel, with its “Gott Mit Uns” (God is with us) inscription. On the back of the belt, Fritz carries a canteen, mess kit, and a bread bag. Fritz is clad in standard issue boots (not the hobnailed jackboot that you see in the movies) and has a plain “coal scuttle” helmet sporting protective goggles worn by mechanized infantrymen. By 1943, the German steel helmet had no insignia on it and was painted in a variety of gray and green shades.

This display was donated to the Museum by Timothy Murphy of Riverside, NJ. Tim is a great friend of the Lawrenceville museum and he has donated uniforms for several other mannequins we have on display.



## WHAT'S UP SEA GIRT

A priority as of recent has been the restoration of the macro-artifacts outside of the museum. Sergeant Walker and Chief Remig have already painted our M4 Sherman and M75 APC, while the F-84 Thunderstreak and F-4 Phantom have been painted by the 108th Air Refueling Wing. Off-site restoration of the AH-1 Cobra will begin shortly, while the UH-1 Huey will be tended to later on. On-site painting of the other armored vehicles is also on the agenda. In addition, several vehicles not on display have been sent to the Military Technology Museum of New Jersey at the InfoAge Science Center, where they will be restored and displayed.

Regarding the interior, plans for new exhibits have been coming to fruition. With construction efforts spearheaded by Sergeant Walker, the museum's new room dedicated to the 50th Armored Division is nearing completion. The exhibit will chronicle the story of New Jersey's preeminent armored unit from the Cold War-era, with tank shells, uniforms, firearms, and other artifacts on display. Visitors will even have the chance to talk to each other via a 1960s era military field telephone.

In the neighboring room, summer employee Cole Snedeker has been designing and building a new World War I exhibit. The focus of the exhibit will be on New Jersey's involvement in the Great War, but both American and foreign artifacts, uniforms, firearms, and scale-model vehicles will be on display.

Good progress has also been made on other ongoing projects. Cole Snedeker has been working with volunteer Robert Perricelli in the back of the museum to organize and catalog the museum's vast collections of historical artifacts and documents. The museum is also home to the Center of US War Veterans' Oral Histories, and the director of the program, Ms. Carol Fowler, continues to interview veterans. Along with help from Cole Snedeker and resident historian Mr. Joseph Bilby, she works to convert their video interviews into written summaries to be posted to the museum's online archives.

Finally, the museum has entered the planning stages for a relocation. The museum itself will be moved to occupy a building adjacent to the entrance of the Sea Girt base, which will be renovated later this year. Stored collections will be transferred to a facility at Lakehurst Naval Air Station. The move is currently scheduled to take place in the summer of 2020.



The Sprint Building near the Main Gate at Sea Girt - the future home of the NGMMNJ.